GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
POLLUTION IN GANGA RIVER
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the work relating to abatement of pollution in the river Ganga as on date;

(b) the details of financial resources and the loan granted by various agencies for the said project; and

(c) the target set for completion of the said project?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) The Government of India launched the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase−I, in the year 1985 taking up pollution abatement works in the identified polluted stretches of the river and completed the same in 2000. Since GAP Phase−I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, GAP Phase−II was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. 380 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed in both the phases out of 541 schemes sanctioned for river Ganga resulting in creation of 953 mld sewage treatment capacity so far. With the pollution abatement works completed in both the phases under GAP, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown discernible improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions of the country.

The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India for the river Ganga under both the phases works out to Rs.714.14 crore of which the loan component from foreign agencies is Rs. 33.04 crore.

Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity of the Government under which various schemes of pollution abatement for river Ganga are implemented by the Government based upon the estimated pollution loads. Due to ever- increasing population along the banks of Ganga leading to increased pollution load and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up the works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the pollution load tackled and the actual pollution load.